

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this patent application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5,8, and 11-14 have been rejected as being anticipated by Fukuda under 35 USC 102; and Claims 9 and 10 have been objected to as containing allowable subject matter but being dependent from rejected parent claims. Claims 6,7, and 15-20 have been withdrawn from consideration in view of the previous species requirement and election. Claim 1 has been cancelled, new Claim 21 inserted, and consequently, Claims 2-5,8-14, and 21 are active in this patent application.

It is initially noted that a new Abstract is attached hereto as required by the examiner.

In addition, copies of the formal drawings are also enclosed herewith as required by the examiner.

Still further, Claims 4 and 11 have been appropriately amended so as to properly recite the groupings of such claims.

The examiner has also inquired as to the adherence of the plurality of ferromagnetic components once, for example, a pair of the primary magnetic components are separated from each other. There is no precise or predetermined number of ferromagnetic components that will remain with a particular one or the other of the primary magnetic components, however, they will adhere to the same in view of the magnetic fields and the flux lines thereof. This is specifically noted in applicant's specification at, for example, Page 14, line 1 through Page 15, line 5.

With respect to the rejection of the noted claims as being anticipated by Fukuda, it is noted that in accord-

ance with the present invention, the magnetic components are such as to permit adjacent ones of the magnetic components to not only be attracted and connected to each other by means of the magnetic attraction forces developed therebetween, but in addition, each one of the magnetic components is able to be universally rotated with respect to its adjacent magnetic component around any one of three mutually orthogonal axes and yet still remain magnetically attracted and connected to the adjacent magnetic component. While Fukuda discloses at least one embodiment which utilizes or comprises spherical components, there is no discussion whatever of such universal movement of adjacent magnetic components. In fact, the components of Fukuda comprise uniaxial anisotropic permanent magnets wherein the magnetic fields are oriented along the X-X direction (see the specification at Page 7, Paragraphs [0114] and [0115]). While original Claim 1 set forth the universal recitation, new Claim 21 further emphasizes the fact that the magnetic components are rotatable around the three mutually orthogonal axes. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 21, as well as the other dependent claims of this patent application, patentably define over Fukuda.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that this patent application is now in condition for allowance, and therefore, an early and favorable action is now anticipated and awaited.

Respectfully Submitted,
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